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CONTROVERSY

**Younger tape also
implicates chief of
staff; given to RCMP**



**Haley
Ryan**
Metro | Halifax

The latest development in the Andrew Younger controversy has Nova Scotia's premier handing over a recording to police.

On Thursday, the Liberal government released a 43-second voice recording of a conversation between Younger and Premier Stephen McNeil's chief of staff, Kirby McVicar, with a letter to media stating the tape was anonymously left at Province House.

This follows a longer recording Younger released to CBC last week in which McVicar discusses Younger's potential return to cabinet.

McNeil told reporters he gave the tape to the RCMP since it appears to make serious allegations, but said the

rest of the tape must be released.

"I'm certainly not happy with what I heard in the context of those 40 seconds," he said, "but I need to look at it in its totality."

The letter suggests the tape is evidence of McVicar trying to bribe Younger to return as environment minister by promising a job for his wife, since the couple may have taken a financial hit while on leave.

"If there's anything we can do for your wife on that side, if there's anything, let us know. I mean, if there's a personal services contract we can do ..."

The House passed a motion directing Younger to release the entire recording of the Feb. 12 conversation by noon Friday or the Speaker's Office will seize it.

Younger said Thursday he doesn't have any more of the recording since his government phone was wiped when he was fired from cabinet.

PC leader Jamie Baillie is now calling on McVicar to be removed until the RCMP finish looking into the matter. The premier said McVicar would keep his position.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

'WHAT ARE WE DOING TO SUSTAIN SUCCESS IN HALIFAX?'

— Mayor Mike Savage



Holding line on taxes stressed
during state-of-municipality
address **metroNEWS**



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Calnen trial deliberations begin

COURT

Barred details emerge as jurors decide defendant's fate



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

The jury began its deliberations Thursday in the murder trial for Paul Calnen, but the case almost didn't make it to that point.

Calnen, 52, is charged with second-degree murder in the 2013 killing of his girlfriend, 34-year-old Reita Jordan. Calnen pleaded guilty at the start of the trial to indecently interfering with human remains — in this case, burning the body.

Details of what happened without the jury present can't be reported until the jury begins its deliberations.

On Monday, when the Crown closed its case, the jury was excused from the courtroom, and the defence put forward a motion for a directed verdict.

The motion is a legal move used when the defence believes there is no evidence that would lead to a reasonable, properly instructed jury to



There hasn't been a homicide proven in this case.

Peter Planetta



Paul Calnen leaves Nova Scotia Supreme Court in Halifax on Thursday morning. Inset: Reita Jordan. ZANE WOODFORD/METRO; INSET: FACEBOOK

come to a guilty verdict.

If it had been successful, Justice James Chipman would have thrown out the case and sent the jury home.

Defence attorney Peter Planetta argued that the Crown was inviting the jury to speculate and make inferences based on Calnen's after the fact conduct — namely, his burning of Jordan's body.

"There hasn't been a homicide proven in this case," he

told Justice Chipman, arguing the case could go no further.

In response, Crown attorney Rick Woodburn told the court there was a "multitude" of evidence.

Justice Chipman ultimately sided with the Crown, and the trial went on, with Planetta opting to call no evidence.

Before the Crown closed its case on Monday, one of a few voir dres — trials within trials in which the jury is not

present — in the case discussed the admissibility of a witness, forensic pathologist Marnie Wood from the Nova Scotia Medical Examiners Office.

She had written a report saying Calnen's version of events — that Jordan died instantly by falling down the carpeted staircase at his house — would be "distinctly unusual" if true.

In more than 20 cases involving deaths on staircases, Wood testified that they'd all

involved straight staircases with hard landings at the bottom.

The stairs in Calnen's house

+ ADMITTED EVIDENCE

In other voir dres during the trial, Justice Chipman admitted text messages between Jordan and Crown witness Wade Weeks as

evidence, and didn't allow hours of Calnen's statement to police in which police laid out their theory, and Calnen said few words.

Verdict

The jury of eight women and four men deliberated for six and a half hours Thursday, but could not come to a verdict.

The jurors have three options in deciding their verdict: they could decide Calnen is not guilty, that he's guilty of murder, or that he's guilty of manslaughter.

They were sequestered Thursday night, and were scheduled to continue deliberations Friday morning.

contain two 90-degree turns, and have laminate flooring at the bottom.

The defence then called a witness of its own — forensic pathologist John Butt.

He told the court that deciding whether someone could die from falling down a particular set of stairs was outside the area of expertise of a forensic pathologist. He said a biomechanical engineer would be the specialist best suited to make such a call.

Justice Chipman agreed with that argument, and Wood was not allowed to take the stand for the Crown.



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Jessica Durling feels Halifax is a more accepting community due to organizations like The Youth Project and The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Stereotypes still exist: Activist

CEREMONIES

Events mark Transgender Day of Remembrance



Rebecca Dingwell
For Metro | Halifax

Jessica Durling says she is reluctant to reveal her identity as a trans woman to people in

her personal life.

"I keep it to my political life, and only mention it when it's relevant to gaining political rights," Durling said Thursday. "Even close friends of mine that I've made in the past several months, I don't personally tell."

Durling is the co-chair of the University of King's College Pride Society. She feels Halifax is a more accepting community than some, thanks to organizations such as the Youth Project and the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP).

"That's something that the rural communities in Nova Scotia don't have," said Durling. "When you're facing these struggles, you're outnumbered. You feel alone."

As someone from a small town, Durling has witnessed the difference first hand.

"The LGBT people in the rural communities ... I've noticed mostly migrate to Halifax," she explained. "Thankfully, in Halifax, there are people there for you."

However, Durling said prejudice is still perpetuated.

+ UNIVERSITY OF KING'S COLLEGE

The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) is holding a ceremony for the 2015 Transgender Day of Remembrance on Friday

evening. It takes place in the New Academic Building at the University of King's College. Doors open at 7 p.m.

"There's this stereotype that trans females are males that 'become' female, which is just false," she explained. "I was a girl born that people thought was a guy. (That) turned out to not be the fact, and I revealed

that growing up."

The Transgender Day of Remembrance takes place internationally on Nov. 20. It was originally observed in 1999, a year after the murder of trans educator Rita Hester. Since

then, the day annually recognizes all people who lost their lives to anti-transgender violence.

Durling said the lives of these people, as well as the discrimination and prejudice they faced, should not be forgotten.

"It's important to memorialize ... and move on from there to make a safer, brighter world," said Durling, "where trans people, particularly trans women of colour, will not be murdered for being who they are."



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Mayor pledges to 'hold the line' on tax burden

POLITICS

Address notes city's balanced budget, fiscal strength



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Halifax

Halifax's mayor may have shown his lighter side during his annual state of the municipality address, but he got down to business when it came to discussing the fiscal health of the municipality.

Mike Savage delivered his speech to a sold-out crowd gathered at Casino Nova Scotia for the yearly event, hosted by the Halifax Chamber of Commerce on Thursday.

Before he took the stage, chamber president and CEO Valerie Payn underlined the previous goals Savage was tasked with during his time as mayor.

These priorities included making Halifax Regional Municipality one of the top three fastest growing city economies in Canada by 2018, reducing the commercial tax burden, and cutting back red tape for developers.

During his address, Savage pointed to recent statistics from The Conference Board of Can-



Mayor Mike Savage addresses the crowd at the Casino during a Halifax Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Thursday. During his speech, he said going into this year's budget talks he hopes to avoid increasing existing property taxes.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

ada, which placed Halifax next to Vancouver and Toronto as the top three ranked growth cities nation-wide in 2015.

"This hardly means that we've reached our goal of being a consistent top performer, but it shows what is possible," Savage said.

"The question for me is, what are we doing to sustain success in Halifax?"

He emphasized the city's financial strength, citing a bal-



We're in a healthy position to invest in infrastructure that matters to our city.

Mayor Mike Savage

anced budget and declining debt.

"We're in a healthy position to invest in infrastructure that matters to our city," Savage said.

Heading into budget deliberations for the coming fiscal

year, Savage said he's hopeful to "hold the line once again," on taxes.

In the 2015-16 budget, residential taxpayers saw a three per cent bump in their bills, which Savage reiterated was

"the right thing to do."

Afterwards, Savage said the option presented going into this year's talks was to "not increase people's overall tax burden on existing properties."

Savage also highlighted how since 2012, the city has "aggressively managed vacancies," in order to reduce costs.

Since his time in office, Savage said the number of city managers has reduced from 275 to 237.

IMMIGRATION

Diverse region good for economy

Turning around Nova Scotia's sluggish economy rests on our city's shoulders, Halifax's mayor said during his annual state of the municipality address.

Mike Savage said in his speech Thursday that one of the keys to that success lies with attracting more immigrants and refugees to call our city home.

"This city is changing," Savage said.

"I believe it's more multicultural. It looks and feels different than a decade ago."

Savage continued to say that newcomers are "investors in our economy," and contribute to building a culturally and fiscally healthier province.

"These past months, watching desperate families crash Europe's borders and risk their lives in perilous passages by sea, have given many of us pause to think about what it really means to welcome the world," he said of the Syrian refugee crisis.

Afterwards, Savage told reporters that "we should work as quickly as we can to bring people in, and settle them in Canada and they can be very much a part of the economy and society of Halifax."

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

+ GROWTH

During his address, Savage cited figures that indicate since 2000 immigration has accounted for half of the municipality's population total growth.

237

During his time in office, Savage notes that the total number of city managers has decreased from 275 to 237.

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EVENT

Hijab Day offers new way to understand Muslim faith

Members of Halifax's Muslim community are confronting misconceptions about their faith by holding an information session about the hijab this weekend.

Anyone who stops by the Halifax Central Library for "Hijab Day" on Saturday will be invited to try one on.

Dr. Abdelkader Tayebi, imam for the Ummah Mosque in Halifax, says he hopes the first-person experience will help people better understand those who wear the hijab, which covers the head and neck but not the face.

"It's no longer something that is related to a minority or a couple of people, so it has surfaced as a matter of concern to Canadians," he said.

"It's being seen as something imported from out-



A vendor prepares an array of hijabs for sale during Ramadan in Surabaya, Indonesia. GETTY IMAGES

side, from the Middle East, whereas it is now a Canadian thing."

Tayebi says there are many mistaken ideas surrounding the hijab, including the notion that men are forcing women to wear them.

One event organizer hopes the simple act of trying on

“It's no longer something that is related to a minority or a couple of people.”
Dr. Abdelkader Tayebi

the hijab will help to forge a path to a larger understanding of Islam that could dispel anti-immigrant sentiment, focused on Muslims, that have been fanned by the recent attacks in Paris and Beirut.

"We figured that it would be a good time for Canadians everywhere, from different

backgrounds, to come together and acknowledge our differences," said Maram Saidi.

In the wake of the attacks in Paris, mosques in Canada have been vandalized and torched, and a Muslim woman was attacked and beaten Monday in Toronto while picking up her children

+ WHERE, WHEN

The event takes place at the Halifax Central Library from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, visit "Hijab Day Halifax" on Facebook.

from school. On Wednesday, Montreal police announced the arrest of a man following the release of a YouTube video in which someone says one Arab would be murdered in Quebec every week.

Tayebi said his wife has been yelled at to "go home," and Saturday's event will include some female students who have stopped wearing the hijab entirely, fed up with repeated questioning and teasing.

"I think it's hard for some people just because of racist comments," says Saidi. "Through this event, we're trying to get rid of the racism and show that we're all human."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Students want bill passed

UNIVERSITIES

Over 1,500 send message: Sexual violence must end now



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

The provincial government's decision to not support Bill 114 ignores the "real problem" of campus sexual violence, say students.

During question period in Province House on Thursday, NDP MLA Dave Wilson presented over 1,500 postcards signed by students across Nova Scotia supporting the bill, which Wilson tabled last spring but which has yet to pass second reading.

Bill 114 would require universities and colleges to develop sexual assault policies with student input, and have better resources available to victims of sexual or gender-based violence at all times.

"It's so crucial that this legislation is passed as a step forward in continuing to work towards consent culture on campus," said Michaela Sam, chairwoman of the Canadian Federation of Students-Nova Scotia on Thursday.

The bill would require universities to report the numbers of sexual assault on campus, which Sam said is needed to "name and combat the issue."

But Kelly Regan, Minister for Advanced Education, has



Michaela Sam, chairwoman of the Canadian Federation of Students-Nova Scotia, poses for a photo outside Province House with one of the more than 1,500 cards presented in support of Bill 114 Thursday. **HALEY RYAN/METRO**

said the Liberal government wants to put sexual assault measures in the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with universities.

Answering Wilson's urge to pass the bill, Regan said there are already laws in place to prevent sexual assault on campus "called the Criminal Code."

Regan said her concerns around Bill 114 include the reporting of sexual assaults,

"We can't ignore the issue any longer. We know it happens... and we need to make sure that campuses are a safe place."

Kelly Regan

which she said health department officials have told her could identify people in a "small jurisdiction."

But Sam said the MOU is not a legitimate approach since the document is often "undermined" by university administration.

"To solely put these kinds of supports in the MOU would be to ignore the real problem at hand," Sam said.

Wilson said the bill cannot pass without the support of the Liberal majority, but that she will continue to push the government to reconsider the bill or pass their own.

"We can't ignore the issue any longer. We know it happens ... and we need to make sure that campuses are a safe place, but more importantly that they're prepared," Wilson said.

LABOUR CODE

Caregivers get longer leave time

Compassionate care leave will be increased from eight to 28 weeks for Nova Scotia workers under changes proposed by the provincial government.

Labour Minister Kelly Regan says bereavement leave would also be extended from three to five consecutive days for employees dealing with the death of a close family member.

Regan says the changes to the Labour Standards Code will protect employees' jobs while they are caring for gravely ill family members or mourning the loss of a close family member.

She says the change to compassionate care leave would bring the province in line with federal legislative changes and increases in Employment Insurance benefits for eligible workers caring for a family member who has a significant risk of death.

Regan says Nova Scotia will be the first province to bring its labour code in line with the federal changes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jan. 3

The date the government anticipates that amendments to legislation for those needing more time for bereavement and compassionate care will be in effect in Nova Scotia.



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Randall Steven Shepherd, left, and Lindsay Kantha Souvannarath enter Halifax provincial court.
JEFF HARPER/METRO FILE

New year to bring trial dates to duo

TRIAL DATES

Pair accused of plotting to shoot mall shoppers

Two young people accused of plotting to shoot shoppers at a Halifax mall are due back in court in January to set trial dates.

Both 23-year-old Lindsay Kantha Souvannarath of

+ CASE ONGOING

None of the allegations against Lindsay Kantha Souvannarath and Randall Steven Shepherd has been proven in court.

Geneva, Ill., and 21-year-old Randall Steven Shepherd of Halifax appeared in Supreme Court for the brief hearing on Thursday.

Lawyers in the case will meet with the judge on Jan. 22 to discuss disclosure, with the matter returning to court on Jan. 28 for date setting.

The Crown alleges the two accused, along with a 19-year-old man found dead in his Halifax-area home, had planned to attack the Halifax Shopping Centre on Valentine's Day.

They are awaiting trial on a charge of conspiracy to commit murder related to the alleged plot. THE CANADIAN PRESS

POLICE

Three robberies likely related



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

Halifax police are investigating three robberies over the past two weeks that they believe are related.

In the most recent incident, four men approached a 22-year-old woman walking on Buddy Day Street just before 2 a.m. on Nov. 15.

Police said she "told them to leave," and one of them punched her in the face several times before the group fled on foot.

Afterwards, the woman noticed her wallet was missing.

The suspects are described as skinny men less than six feet tall — three had been wearing black hoodies and one had been wearing a white T-shirt.

The other two incidents both happened on Nov. 7. In one, three young men and three

young women approached a 34-year-old man walking on Maynard Street and Cunard Street just before 2 a.m. They assaulted him and stole his wallet before taking off on foot.

At about 2 a.m. that same day, a 58-year-old man was assaulted and had his wallet stolen on Gottingen Street. There is no description of the suspects in that incident.

Police are exploring the possibility some of the same people may be involved in these three incidents.

Anyone with information is asked to call police or Crime Stoppers.

+ NUMBERS

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DARTMOUTH

Man jumped, punched in face

Halifax police are looking for two suspects after a man was jumped in Dartmouth Wednesday night.

Police say a 56-year-old man had been walking on Maple Street near Tulip Street just after 9 p.m. when two younger men approached him brandishing knives and demanding money.

One of the men punched the victim in the face and he fell to the ground before a passing vehicle stopped and scared the two suspects away.

The victim escaped injury, and had nothing taken from him.

The first suspect is described as a stocky man in his 20s, about five-foot-six with black

hair. He had been wearing a black jacket and pants and a ball cap.

The second suspect is a slim man in his 20s, about six-foot-two with brown hair and a brown goatee. He had been wearing a green and black "lumberjack-style" jacket and a black toque.

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GRAND PARADE

Crumbling flagpole being replaced for safety reasons



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Halifax

A 68-year-old flagpole in front of Halifax City Hall is set to be coming down this weekend.

The city says the aging flagpole, which was originally installed in 1947, will be replaced on Sunday.

According to a release issued Thursday, replacing the existing flagpole was prompt-

ed by a condition assessment, which determined the base and structure had severely deteriorated and should be removed due to safety reasons.

The city adds that the size and location of the flagpole also did not match with the design of Grand Parade, "and was not conducive to larger event programming."

1947

The year when the 68-year-old flagpole was originally installed.

A contractor has been preparing to install a new flagpole for the past month in the northeast corner of Grand Parade, near City Hall.

Although the flagpole is set to come down this weekend — weather permitting — the city says the old concrete base will be removed over the next few weeks.

Wanted man turned out to be pro photographer, police say

Halifax police say a man who they had earlier deemed suspicious when he was trying to solicit his photography services at an apartment building this week is actually a professional photographer.

On Tuesday, police said a man knocked on all the doors of an apartment building on

Fiske Street on Monday, asking to take pictures of the tenants' children for a \$10 fee.

They also released a description of the man.

On Wednesday, a man contacted police "as he thought the description released publicly sounded like him."

Police verified that the man

works for a local photography business, and his activities were innocent.

They also said they've determined that man has no connection to an incident in that area earlier in the day, when a man grabbed a boy's arm.

That incident remains under investigation. METRO



Books of condolences for Paris and Beirut were at Halifax City Hall for the public to sign Thursday.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

Last chance to sign condolence books

HALIFAX CITY HALL

Set up to show support after recent attacks in Paris, Beirut



Rebecca Dingwell
For Metro | Halifax

Hundreds of Halifax-area residents have signed books of condolences at city hall.

One notebook is to be sent to Paris and the other to Beirut, with Friday being the last day for citizens to put pen to paper.

The public has been given

the opportunity to write in these books over the past week, expressing solidarity with those affected by recent terrorist attacks in the two cities.

"Lots of Haligonians wanted to share their support and their sympathies," city spokesperson Tiffany Chase said Thursday. "(Making) these books available for people to sign and for us to be able to pass those on is a small gesture of support for them."

Reports state that on Nov. 12, a pair of suicide bombings killed more than 40 in Beirut, Lebanon. The following day, more than 120 people died in a series of attacks in Paris.

"People around the world have united in grief over the

senseless loss of life in these cities at the hands of terrorists," Mayor Mike Savage said in an online statement. "These books of condolences are a simple gesture to let Paris and Beirut know that the people of Halifax stand with them as they mourn and move forward."

Chase said the books will be sent to the consulates in the respective cities.

+ SIGNING

The two books are available to sign at city hall for the last time Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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Murderer loses parole appeal

JUSTICE

Derek Wood was imprisoned for 1992 slaying at McDonald's

The man believed to be the mastermind behind the most notorious killings in Cape Breton history has lost his appeal of the decision to deny him day parole.

Derek Anthony Wood was sentenced to life in prison with no eligibility for parole for 25 years after being convicted of a number of charges, including two counts of first-degree murder, in the 1992 Sydney River McDonald's restaurant when he, Darren Muise and Freeman MacNeil robbed the restaurant and killed three workers. A fourth person was left permanently disabled.

Wood had filed an appeal with the Parole Board of Canada after it denied his day parole application earlier this year. He had been deemed a medium to high risk to re-



Crime-scene tape surrounds the Sydney River McDonald's restaurant in 1992. CAPE BRETON POST

offend in a violent manner, according to a psychological assessment.

The board's appeal division reviewed Wood's file, the audio recording of the hearing

and his appeal submissions, and considered his grounds for appeal, which it summarized as "erroneous and/or incomplete information, reasonableness of the decision,

duty to act fairly: conduct of the hearing."

"Given your ... moderate to high risk for reoffending, the length of your incarceration, your violent institutional

behaviour, your current segregation status, the special handling requirements in your case and your lack of engagement in addressing your risk factors, the board concluded that your release from a maximum security institution to a halfway house was not realistic or viable at this time," it states.

In its decision, the parole board noted that while in prison in 1998, Wood assaulted another inmate in an attack involving sharpened paintbrushes and a sharpened toothbrush. He was also found guilty of assaults on two correctional officers in 2006.

The Oct. 23 appeal decision noted that Wood emphasized in his appeal submissions what he claimed to be his positive institutional behaviour, the fact that he is a first-time federal offender, and that he disagreed with the board's finding that he had a sense of entitlement. The appeal division found that he did not raise any grounds that would cause it to intervene.

It noted the board did consider that Wood had de-

+ IN PRISON

It's unclear where Derek Anthony Wood is serving his time because the parole board doesn't release information about the location of offenders.

veloped vocational skills and received positive work performance appraisals during his incarceration, but also considered his capacity for violence and that his dynamic risk factors hadn't yet been adequately addressed through his participation in his correctional plan.

The board's decision said that Wood has been isolated for nearly seven years in maximum security segregation, and he has not shown the ability to function in a less restrictive setting.

Wood had proposed a day parole release to a halfway house where he would "take a week to get familiar with (his) surroundings and then seek employment," the decision read. TC MEDIA

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YARMOUTH BLAZE CONSUMES HOME Residents barely escaped before their house was destroyed by fire early Thursday morning. Port Maitland fire chief Art Rose says it was difficult for firefighters to confirm all residents were out of the structure when they first arrived. Besides the husband and wife, there were three other young adult family members in the home, which was uninsured. TC MEDIA

PAROLE REVOKED

Killer heading back to prison

A former Liverpool man who killed his fiancée is headed back to penitentiary, only months after being granted day parole. James Leroy Leopold had his parole revoked on Nov. 13 after breaching conditions of his parole.

Leopold was convicted of manslaughter in 2012 for the death of his fiancée, 47-year-old Laura Robertson of Liverpool. He was sentenced to serve seven

years in a federal penitentiary.

Leopold was granted day parole in June, and sent to live at an undisclosed halfway house. However, his parole required him to follow strict conditions.

According to a Parole Board of Canada report obtained by The Advance, Leopold violated those conditions and is on his way back to prison.

One of the conditions was that Leopold report all intim-

ate relationships and friendships with females to his parole supervisor.

However, the report found that Leopold had a girlfriend for at least a month while in the halfway house which he had not disclosed to his parole officer.

The report also found that Leopold had shared narcotics with another halfway house resident. TC MEDIA

Two police charged with manslaughter

LAW ENFORCEMENT

51-year-old man shot and killed during drug stop

RCMP have laid charges against two New Brunswick police officers in the shooting death of a 51-year-old man.

Michel Vienneau of Tracadie-Sheila was fired on in his vehicle near the Bathurst train station on Jan. 12.

A news release from Nova Scotia RCMP says constables Patrick Bulger, 38, and Mathieu Boudreau, 26, of the Bathurst City Police are each facing charges of manslaughter with a weapon, assault with a weapon and unlawfully pointing a firearm.

The RCMP in Nova Scotia were asked to investigate the incident and concluded the investigation in July before handing it over to New Brunswick's Public Prosecution Service.

Conflicting statements about

what occurred have emerged in a lawsuit filed by Michel Vienneau's common-law partner, who was with him in the vehicle.

Annick Basque alleged in her July 13 statement of claim that Vienneau's death was caused by police negligence and that neither she nor Vienneau were involved in illegal activities.

In a statement of defence, the City of Bathurst says officers were investigating whether the couple were in possession of illegal drugs after returning from a trip to Quebec.

The statement also says the officers clearly identified themselves to Vienneau and had tried to stop his vehicle before it accelerated.

It says one police officer fired

at the car as it moved towards another officer who was pinned against a snow bank.

None of the lawsuit's allegations or statements of defence have been proven in court.

The lawyer who represents Vienneau's estates says his parents Sylvie and George Vienneau — who are in their 80s — were informed on Wednesday that the charges were laid.

"The family is very relieved. There were all kinds of innuendo and negative stuff that there was criminal wrongdoing on the part of Mr. Vienneau. All kinds of rumours were flying," said Gilles Lemieux.

"This takes away all that pressure and the worry that came with it."

Sylvie Vienneau released a public letter last month criticizing delays in the case and the lack of information being provided to the parents.

The mother said her son had no criminal record, was a well-known businessman and was respected in the community.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

COURT DATE

Both officers will appear in Bathurst provincial court on Jan. 4.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MIKE DUFFY

Trial hears about Senate contracts

Gerald Donohue wasn't a professional speechwriter or researcher, didn't have any particular public policy background and wasn't the employee or officer of any company.

But over the span of three years, the longtime friend of Sen. Mike Duffy took in roughly \$65,000 in taxpayer money for various contracts, directing the money through a firm owned by his wife and son.

He also signed several cheques on behalf of the firm to other individuals and com-

panies that Duffy wanted paid for Senate work — an intern, a makeup artist, speechwriters.

Donohue's testimony in Ottawa Thursday marked the finishing up of the Crown's fraud, breach of trust and bribery case against Duffy. He has pleaded not guilty to all 31 counts.

The Crown alleges the \$65,000 in contracts awarded to Donohue was used as a slush fund for Duffy to pay for services that wouldn't pass muster with the Senate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CELEBRITY

Trudeau's making fans swoon abroad

Justin Trudeau was mobbed by a crowd of several hundred shrieking fans at the APEC summit in Manila, Philippines, in a scene more fitting a rock star than a political leader.

The celebrity appeal of Canada's new prime minister was on full display Thursday as men and women crowded around Trudeau, hoping for a glimpse, a handshake and a snippet of video on their phones.

"He so handsome," said one young fan. "He's like Superman," said another.

His appeal to local residents appeared to have little to do with his government policies

or his famous father. Instead, it seemed they just like his looks.

"He makes us swoon," said Chin-Chin Domingo, who used the Tagalog word "kilig" to describe Trudeau's effects on the crowd. "It's butterflies in the stomach. That's how we feel."

Jono Lyn Cadayong was exuberant after getting a handshake from Trudeau. "I'm speechless. He has nice eyes. I will not wash my hand."

Squeals signalled Trudeau's arrival at a media briefing room where he held a news conference to conclude his day at the APEC summit.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Fans greet Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Manila, Philippines on Thursday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Syrian refugees gather outside their embassy waiting to apply for passports or to renew their old ones in Amman, Jordan, in September. Some of them may be among the 25,000 people resettled in Canada. RAAD ADAYLEH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Government hunts for winter housing

REFUGEES

Notice seeks temporary sites for 500 to 3,000 people

The federal government is searching for temporary winter housing for thousands of people across Canada days before the expected unveiling of its plan to bring in 25,000 Syrian refugees by year's end.

Public Works and Government Services is establishing a list of facilities that can provide winterized housing at various sites across Canada, the Star

has learned.

The sites will have to accommodate between 500 and 3,000 people for as long as three months, according to a notice posted Thursday morning.

"The Government of Canada is seeking interested companies that have the capacity, capability and availability to provide leasing, management and servicing of temporary winterized lodgings for groups of 500-3,000 people by early December 2015 at sites to be confirmed," the notice reads.

It's not yet known if the request is specific to the needs of the expected refugees. The Public Works employee responsible

for the notice refused to comment. The Star has requested comment from the Liberals.

But the notice states the government requires lodging for both individuals and large families for up to three months, beginning next month. The timing and the requirements strongly suggest a temporary refuge for people fleeing Syria's bloody civil war.

The sites must be completely self-contained, including energy generation, sewer, and waste management, and provide space for an information centre and offices for management personnel, among other requirements.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PREPARATION

Saskatchewan to set up settlement centre

Days after Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall said Ottawa should suspend its plan to bring in 25,000 Syrian refugees, his province will establish a refugee settlement centre to co-ordinate the arrival of refugees.

The premier says it's important to ensure that refugees make a successful transition to life in Canada.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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TERRORISM

Female suicide bombers exist, too

The woman who blew herself up with an explosive vest in a suburban Paris apartment during a police operation Wednesday was far from the world's first female suicide bomber.

In the Palestinian territories, about a dozen women have carried out suicide attacks against Israelis since 2002 — including 27-year-old paramedic Wafa Idris, who blew herself up in downtown Jerusalem on Jan. 27, 2002. It was unclear if she planned to commit suicide.

Kurdish women have carried out several suicide attacks in Turkey since the 1980s, as have female members of leftist groups in their campaign against the government. The most recent attack occurred on Jan. 6, when a Turkish leftist group claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing at an Istanbul police station that killed an officer and wounded another.

Two female suicide bombers from Chechnya — belonging to a group known as the “black widows” in Russia — were to blame for the 2010 bombings of the Moscow metro, which killed some 40 people.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Iranian students fill in registration forms indicating their readiness to carry out suicide attacks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



French gendarmes enforce the **Vigipirate plan**, France's national security alert system, throughout Paris. France revealed on Nov. 19 it will spend an extra 600 million euros (\$641 million US) next year to ramp up security after the Paris attacks. President Francois Hollande announced this week that France is freezing plans to cut troop numbers through 2019. At the same time, the country will add 8,500 law enforcement jobs including 5,000 new police. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Opera brings warmth to France's dark hour

Paris

Toronto-based performers set for opening of Versailles show



Marco Chown Oved IN PARIS

Barely 48 hours after the horrifying attacks in Paris, members of Toronto's Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Opera Atelier dance company faced a

very difficult choice.

Their presentation of Jean-Baptiste Lully's 17th-century opera, *Armide*, was scheduled to go forward at the Chateau de Versailles just outside Paris, but the companies weren't going to force anyone to get on the plane.

Overcoming their fears, in a show of solidarity, and as a measure of their professionalism, every single one of the 75 musicians, dancers and technicians boarded that flight.

“When we started hearing the news, it was panic in the early hours, the borders are closed and a state of emergency. Everyone was concerned,” said ballet dancer Jennifer Nichols.



I think everyone, unanimously ... said we're doing this together.

Ballet dancer Jennifer Nichols

“But once we heard that the company was moving forward with the tour, ... we wanted to be in solidarity with the French people.”

“There was a lot of trepidation,” agreed Lucas Harris, who plays a type of lute called a the-

orbo. “But everyone else was going and we didn't want to let them down.”

Harris and his wife, Genevieve Gilardeau, who plays violin in the orchestra, went one step further than most of their colleagues: they also brought their four-year-old daughter, Daphnée.

“All the extra security makes us a little uncomfortable,” said Harris. But in the week of rehearsals since their arrival, they haven't regretted the choice.

The Toronto performers are now ready for opening night Friday, a performance that's being dedicated to the victims at the Bataclan concert hall.

IN BRIEF

Saudis attempting to unite Syrian opposition

Saudi Arabia will host a conference in mid-December to try to unite the Syrian opposition ahead of new peace talks, a key issue in efforts to end the nearly five-year civil war, the country's UN ambassador said Thursday.

Saudi Ambassador Abdullah Al-Moualimi said his country will be trying to bring different strands of the opposition “together for a united voice.”

Last Saturday, foreign ministers from about 20 nations agreed in Vienna to an ambitious yet incomplete plan that sets a Jan. 1 deadline for the start of negotiations between Syrian President Bashar Assad's government and opposition groups.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Syrian President Bashar Assad GETTY IMAGES

ISIL striving for reactions

ISIL has dramatically expanded its theatre of operations from its hub in Syria and Iraq, executing or inspiring a series of attacks across three continents that claimed more than 800 lives this year.

The mayhem created by those attacks attracts the kind of attention that the extremist group thrives on. ISIL, which has recently lost territory to U.S.-backed forces in Syria and Iraq, seeks to boost its credentials with acts of violence that attract recruits. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INTELLIGENCE

Chemical weapons may pose threat to the West: Officials

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group is aggressively pursuing development of chemical weapons, setting up a branch dedicated to research and experiments with the help of scientists from Iraq, Syria and elsewhere in the region, according to Iraqi and U.S. intelligence officials.

Their quest raises an alarming scenario for the West, given the determination to strike major cities that the group showed with its bloody attack

last week in Paris. U.S. intelligence officials don't believe ISIL has the capability to develop sophisticated weapons



They now have complete freedom to select locations for their labs and production sites.

Iraqi intelligence official

like nerve gas that are most suited for a terrorist attack on a civilian target. So far the group has used mustard gas on the battlefield in Iraq and Syria.

Still, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls on Thursday warned that Islamic extremists might at some point use chemical or biological weapons.

“Terrorism hit France not because of what it is doing in Iraq and Syria ... but for what it is,” Valls told the lower house of Parliament. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Migrants wait to cross the Greece-Macedonia border, near the village of Idomeni. Countries along the migrant route through the Balkans have begun tightening restrictions on the wave people crossing their borders by allowing entry only to those fleeing war. SAKIS MITROLIDIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Closed borders in Balkan countries create pileups

REFUGEE CRISIS

Thousands of 'economic migrants' stuck between nations

Most nations along Europe's refugee corridor shut their borders Thursday to those not coming from war-torn countries such as Syria, Afghanistan or Iraq, leaving thousands of others seeking a better life in the continent stranded at Balkan border crossings.

The overnight decision trig-

gered the domino effect that both asylum-seekers and European nations had feared given the record number of people fleeing to Europe this year, and new fears after the deadly Paris attacks of possible militants coming in with refugees.

Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia weren't allowing in the so-called economic migrants whose countries aren't shattered by armed struggles and wars.

In the Greek village of Idomeni at the border with Macedonia, police said the border has essentially been shut down to all since Thursday morning. Some 3,000 people are waiting at a camp



We're trapped They won't let my family across. We have no money, and we're waiting without any idea of what is to happen.

Mohammed Mirzam

nearby that provides temporary shelter for those heading north through the Balkans.

About 500 people from Iran, Morocco and Algeria gathered on the border line between Greece and Macedonia to protest the closure. As a result, nobody else from the nationalities that Macedonia is letting through — Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis

— were able to cross.

Dariush Yazdani, 25, from Tehran, said he was determined to reach Germany, and faced imprisonment were he to return to Iran.

"I will never go back," he said. On the Serbian border with Macedonia, the Serbs were letting in only migrants from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. And on

the Croatia-Serbia border, Croats were only accepting people from those three countries plus Palestine. Slovenia — the next country in the chain — also said it has been turning back the so-called economic migrants.

"This is going to be definitely a challenging situation," UN refugee agency spokeswoman in Serbia Melita Sunjic said. "UNHCR does not think that there is any nation that can be excluded from international protection based on their nationalities, but each case individually should be screened and processed based on the merits of the case."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YEMEN

Rebels free U.S. captives

Three Americans held captive by Shiite rebels in Yemen's capital have been freed, Oman's state news agency and officials in Yemen said Thursday.

The short English-language statement on the Oman News Agency said only that the U.S. State Department had asked Oman to bring the Americans out of the country. It did not elaborate or provide information on their identities.

However, independent security officials in Yemen and members of the Shiite rebels known as Houthis said the Americans had been detained for at least two months at a Houthi security building in the rebel-held capital of Sanaa.

The rebels and the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity as they weren't authorized to brief journalists, did not say why the Americans were held.

Two of them were working with the United Nations, the officials said, while offering no information about the third.

The Houthis previously said they had detained two Americans on suspicion of being spies, but it wasn't immediately clear if those two were included in the release.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5,700

At least 5,700 people have been killed in the conflict in Yemen since March 26, including 830 women and children, the UN said. The war has pushed the country to the brink of famine, as the UN says over 21 million people — 80 per cent of the population — need humanitarian aid.

TERRORISM

China's president decries killing of hostage by ISIL

President Xi Jinping strongly condemned the killing of a Chinese hostage by Islamic State extremists.

ISIL said that it had killed two hostages it was holding for ransom from Norway and China. The Chinese man had been identified as Fan Jinghui, 50, who once taught grade school.

China's Foreign Ministry confirmed his killing early Thursday.

"Terrorists are the common enemy of humankind," Xi said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LIBYA

Benghazi suspect in U.S. asks for release

Lawyers for a suspected Libyan militant charged in 2012 attacks that killed the U.S. Ambassador and three others have asked a judge to send him home.

The lawyers say the U.S. illegally captured and interrogated Ahmed Abu Khattala last year, and that the appropriate remedy for that is for him to be returned to Libya.

U.S. District Court Judge Casey Cooper did not immediately rule on the request.

Khattala was captured by U.S. special forces in a June 2014 nighttime raid.

He was then interrogated for days aboard a Navy ship while being brought to the United States to face charges in the Sept. 2012 attacks on a State Department compound and a nearby CIA annex.

The attacks killed four Americans, including Chris Stevens, the U.S. Ambassador to Libya.

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metro NEWS Business

Weekend, November 20-22, 2015 **23**

FOREIGN POLICY

Trudeau makes his mark

Canada's new prime minister departed Thursday from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Manila, closing his first act on the international stage — trailed by a squealing mob of young Filipino journalists and volunteers and questions about whether any of it might be good for his broader foreign policy goals.

One of the things Justin Trudeau talked about a lot at this summit was the need to put Canada on the front lines of the fight against climate change.

Earlier in the day, that won him plaudits from U.S. President Barack Obama.

But Obama put the squeeze on Trudeau on a key trade issue. The president said that the U.S. and Canada are "both soon to be signatories" to the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Trudeau has said he wants to consult with Canadians and Parliament before moving forward on the Pacific Rim trade pact. But Obama told this summit he wants countries to move swiftly towards ratification.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pay gap will take 118 years to close: Report

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Study ranked Canada 30th out of 145 nations

Women around the world will earn less than men for the next 118 years if present trends in pay inequity persist, the World Economic Forum predicts.

The global pay gap between men and women closed by a mere 3 per cent over the past decade, noticeably stalling after 2009/2010, says the forum's annual Global Gender Gap report.

The slow progress means

women are only now earning what men earned nearly a decade ago, \$11,000 on average, the first year the Geneva-based non-profit foundation began tracking the data. Meanwhile, men's average pay has nearly doubled to \$21,000 worldwide.

As the global economy becomes increasingly automated, "we need to create a world where women's contributions and ideals are as valued as those of men," said Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the forum, best known for its annual meeting of global leaders in Davos, Switzerland.

The report, which also looks at women's progress in edu-

cation, health and political empowerment, found Canada ranked 30th out of the 145 nations surveyed.

Around the world, the Nordic nations remain the most gender-equal societies, led by Iceland, Norway and Finland,



We need to create a world where women's contributions ... are as valued as those of men.

Klaus Schwab

ranking first, second and third, the World Economic Forum said. The least equitable are Syria, Pakistan and Yemen, ranking 143rd, 144th and 145th respectively, the forum's report found. Yemen is the country where women are unable to leave the house without the permission of a male relative, a forum blog noted.

One seemingly counter-intuitive ranking went to the African nation of Rwanda, which came in 6th. Much of it is due to the Rwanda genocide of 1994, which devastated the male population, leaving women to run the country.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ ON BOARD

Largest one-year jump in female representation

Women hold 19.5 per cent of the seats on the boards of Canada's biggest companies, up from 17.1 per cent in 2014, says the Canadian Board Diversity Council. It's the largest one-year increase in female representation on the boards of FP500 companies since 2001.

The rise follows the introduction of a new "comply or explain" policy that forces publicly traded companies to disclose statistics on the representation of women on their boards and in executive officer positions. Regulators in every province and territory except for Prince Edward Island, Alberta and British Columbia have implemented the "comply or explain" rules.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NOW THAT'S SOME BLING

SECOND-LARGEST DIAMOND FOUND Vancouver-based mining company Lucara Diamond Corp. says it has unearthed the second-largest gem quality diamond ever, and the largest discovered in over a century, at its Karowe Mine in Botswana. The 1,111-carat diamond, pictured above, measures 65 millimetres by 56 mm by 40 mm — a rock weighing half a pound that's a little smaller than a tennis ball. Only the Cullinan diamond, weighing 3,106 carats — close to 1½ pounds — and measuring over 10 centimetres in length, beats the diamond found by Lucara. The Cullinan diamond, discovered in 1905 in South Africa, was eventually cut into smaller diamonds with pieces incorporated into the British royal crown and sovereign's sceptre. COURTESY LUCARA DIAMOND CORP./THE CANADIAN PRESS



LEAP SECOND

UN agency takes its time

The International Telecommunication Union said Thursday that it had considered a proposal to abandon the "leap second" but recommended further study. The practice of adding an extra second has kept computers synchronized with the planet's 24-hour day since 1972. The timekeepers said they needed more details on the impact of ending the practice. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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ROOIBOS HARVEST

Drought in Africa hits red lattes, teas

From frothy red lattes to rust-coloured teas, popular rooibos drinks will likely become scarcer and more expensive because of a widespread drought in South Africa, including in scrubland where the rooibos plant normally flourishes.

A devastated rooibos harvest may lead to a 90 per cent price increase, a trade council said on Thursday. The U.S. is one of the biggest importers of rooibos tea. There was little rainfall during the July

and August planting months which could cause the worst harvest in years, the South African Rooibos Council said in a statement.

Farmers will only know the extent of their losses in the first half of 2016 when the volume of the final harvest is known, said council spokesman Ernest du Toit.

South Africa is the only region where the rooibos plant grows naturally.

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metro VIEWS

Your essential daily news

Weekend, November 20-22, 2015

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

You can't help but want a towering figure in feminism like Gloria Steinem to have the best chat of her life, chatting with you. But damn, are you lucky that she's chatting to you at all.



I think I screwed up with Gloria Steinem. She was great. She was (is) interesting, and thoughtful and kind. Also: At ease.

But I was trying far too hard. Maybe it was over-reading all things by and for her, or marking her new book *My Life on the Road*, using "sign here" stickies at my favourite parts, as if I'd have time to touch on them all, worrying how to ask questions she'd never heard before.

Of course, Steinem doesn't need any interviewer to be interesting.

I began by thanking her for her decades of activism.

"Well, you know, I feel the same thankfulness to all the people who woke me up," she said. "It's like a chain, and it just goes on and on, which is the good news."

Many of the people who "woke her up" are detailed in her memoir, a personal history of second-wave feminism from the vanguard, a meditation on the act of listening, a book rich with characters she meets on the road, in planes, taxis and trains, in India, the U.S. and Canada. They teach her and buoy her and offer her hope, and I asked if we all need to travel to get that feeling of optimism.

But she said the road can be a state of mind: "When you

leave your house in the morning, just being open to accident makes a big difference. Take those moments in the elevator, when nobody's talking but everybody's thinking the same thing, or whatever the immediate spontaneous moment is, and going with it to see what happens."

or class, without controlling reproduction."

But are we — young feminists — doing enough to listen to each other, and be broad-minded?

No one's all that great at it, she said with a little laugh.

"I think young women are by and large better at it than

with more men than women, underage pregnancy causing teenage death, sexualized violence and domestic violence.

And she argued that the issue of violence against women should play a central role in foreign policy, too.

If western governments want to separate moderate groups from extremists to find allies in Syria, "the most reliable way of deciding that is attitudes toward women. If we had taken that seriously, we would not have aided the mujahideen, who turned into the Taliban in Afghanistan, for instance."

The only politician advocating that strategy, she said, is Hillary Clinton. Steinem writes in her book that the U.S. wasn't ready to have a woman head of state in 2008 because we, and especially men, "feel regressed to childhood when we see powerful women."

And now?

"I'm not sure." Maybe Clinton's own time as secretary of state has helped, she said, but it will be a "very tough campaign."

At one point, Steinem painted an image of the future that answered my worries that things can't change: "If we raised one generation of children without violence and without shaming and labels and, you know, race, gender roles and so on, we don't know what might be possible."

When I hung up, my mind created an alternate interview: I laughed when she laughed, instead of being too nervous, pleasantness gave way to firecrackers. You can't help but want a towering figure in feminism like Steinem to have the best chat of her life, chatting with you. But damn, are you lucky that she's chatting to you at all.



GLORIA'S GLAMOUR It's impossible not to get star-struck around feminist leader Gloria Steinem, writes Rosemary Westwood of their wide-ranging conversation. GETTY IMAGES

You might, like Steinem, discover your garbage man is your best political adviser.

I told her I see schisms among feminists by race, and she pointed to how the media and some scholars put the social-justice movement into silos, when "What's missing is the understanding of organic connections. It's not possible in any practical way, much less idealistic way, to be a feminist without being anti-racist," she said. Women suffer from both categories, and "in an even deeper way you can't perpetuate race or caste, as in India,

older ones, because they're more conscious of the connections, because they've grown up with more connections."

"Racism is a prison for white folks who are culturally deprived," she added. "You have to get mad on your own behalf: 'How dare this society tell me who my friends are and where I live?' I think you become a more trustworthy ally when you see your own enlightened self-interest in it."

What most concerns her right now, she said, is global violence against women: Infanticides that led to a planet

THE BIG THING: POLITICS & PERSONAL SPACE

He's the Prime Minister of PDA. But are Justin Trudeau's touchy-feely tendencies a weird habit or a successful strategy?

Trudeau gets up close and personal with the U.S. president, bear-hugs premiers and soundly smooches his wife without apparent hesitation. Not to mention his habit of snuggly selfies with members of the public. But does it work?

Many Canadians enjoy getting hugs, even if they're too shy to give them in public, said University of Victoria psychology professor Robert Gifford, an expert on personal space.



centimetres for everyday conversation. (Violating this could indicate an autism spectrum disorder or a specific type of brain damage — no sign that applies to Trudeau).

Outside of intimate relationships, a distance of less than 45 centimetres typically makes North Americans nervous, "cross-eyed" and instinctively want to move away, according to the anthropology text *The Hidden Dimension*.

So, yes, Trudeau's in-your-face style "goes against the classical Canadian behaviour pattern," Gifford said. But that's not necessarily a bad thing: "Maybe we all need to hug a bit more."

METRO



"I would hazard a guess that (Trudeau's body language) works with many people, and in general is a good strategy, whether intended as a strategy or not," Gifford said.

The distance we prefer between ourselves and others varies by culture: People in the Middle East or Latin America, for example, tend to get a bit cosier than Europeans or Americans.

Etiquette expert Debby Mayne recommends a personal bubble of 120 centimetres between strangers, while one group of psychologists looking at norms of personal space used a benchmark of 64



It's not possible in any practical way, much less idealistic way, to be a feminist without being anti-racist.

Gloria Steinem

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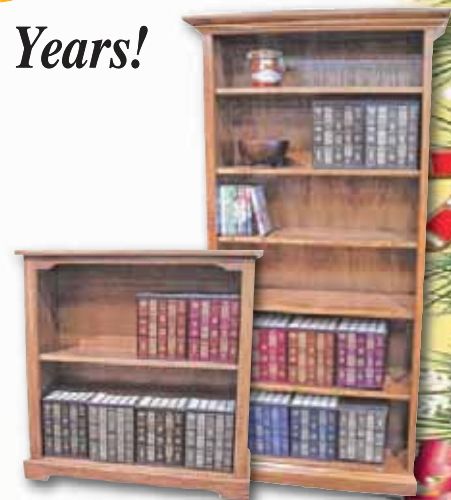
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JLaw is living up to the hype

CELEBRITY

Industry seeks next big thing, finds star with staying power

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada



Sometimes you just know.

In my line of work, hype and celebrity are occupational hazards. Every day my inbox is stuffed with news releases touting the Next! Big! Thing! You get numb to it after a while, but every now and again someone will come along you know is destined for something big.

Jennifer Lawrence wasn't a star the first time I met her but you could tell it would only be a matter of time until she was. It was 2010, years before she would win an Academy Award or be known internationally as Katniss Everdeen. She was a struggling newbie with just a handful of credits, but a great big buzz surrounding her performance in *Winter's Bone*. Her steely but vulnerable take on an Ozark girl who will do anything to keep her family together was garnering good reviews and the usual phrases like "breakout performance" were being thrown around, but this time it felt different. Real.

I was asked to host a question-and-answer period with her after a screening of the film at a theatre in Toronto, but first we planned a quick dinner with a



Jennifer Lawrence in a scene from *Joy* (left), by director David O. Russell, and Academy Award nominated *Winter's Bone* (right). HANDOUTS

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2 ★★★★★
Brooklyn ★★★★★
The Night Before ★★★★★
Man Up ★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★★ SEE IT
★★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★★ UP TO YOU
★★ SKIP IT
★

publicist at a nearby hotel. I've eaten with a lot of actors who order a piece of steamed fish, no butter, no oil and then, rather than actually put it in their mouth, simply move it around the plate until the waiter takes it away.

Not Jennifer Lawrence. She ordered a steak dinner with

sides and ate it all while showing us a cell phone snap of her costume for the *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* audition. As she chatted, laughed and enjoyed dinner, it was apparent what she wasn't. She wasn't precious or overwhelmed at being on the cusp of something big. She was

doing something rare in this business — being herself and enjoying the ride. In other words the woman you now see photobombing Taylor Swift on red carpets or starring in this weekend's *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2* is the real deal, someone completely at ease with herself in a business that doesn't usually allow for that.

Later, on the way to the theatre, she opted not to take the provided limo. Instead we walked down Bloor Street. It was on the chilly side, so she draped my suit jacket over her shoulders. Along the way her high heel caught in a crack in the pavement and

snapped off. Rather than hobble down the street, she kicked off both shoes and walked barefoot the rest of the way, her broken designer shoes in hand.

At the theatre I don't remember what we talked about on stage. When I think back on the night I reflect on the sweet spot she was in, career-wise. She was about to become one of the youngest Oscar nominees ever for best actress in a leading role and yet there wasn't an ounce of pretension about her. Charisma? Yes. Talent? In spades.

I don't claim to have some sort of celebrity ESP, but that night I knew in my gut I had

met a star, a feeling reaffirmed when I saw her carry the *Hunger Games* movies on her back and become a leading voice in the fight for pay equality for women in Hollywood.

Want to see a superstar? Watch the last scene of the *Joy* trailer. Shot on an iPhone as test footage it's a close-up of Lawrence's face as she fires off two shotgun rounds. "My name's Joy, by the way," she says. It's a simple image but a magnetic one. It's a movie star moment from the rare actor who commands our attention every time she's on screen. Sometimes you just know.

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Saoirse steps into role she's lived

PERIOD DRAMA

Coming-of-age part plays into her own growth, says Brooklyn star

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada



Hollywood has never been an easy place to carve out a career — especially for child actors growing up in front of the camera. So it's particularly remarkable how smoothly Saoirse Ronan has maneuvered the maelstrom of the movie biz since entering it at just nine years old.

"I never played kid roles and I had never been in kid films so I always just thought of myself as an actor," reasoned the now 21-year-old actress whose acclaimed oeuvre includes *The Lovely Bones* and *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. "But until now, it was tricky to showcase that you were ready to move on to that next step of taking on roles that were a little bit more mature and where you're more at, personally."

That's why her latest offering, *Brooklyn*, was such an important role for the Irish-American actor. Based on Colm Tóibín's award-winning best-seller (which U.K. newspaper *The Guardian* named as "one of the ten best historical novels"), the 1950s-set drama follows the story of an Irish immigrant who flees to New York in search of work and must struggle with new loves and a life on her own as a young adult.

"What's particularly fresh about this story is that it's told from a woman's point of view and that's something that's missing from all of the



“What’s particularly fresh about this story is that it’s told from a woman’s point of view ... something that’s missing from all of the accounts in the Irish canon of immigration.”

Director John Crowley

Saoirse Ronan plays an Irish immigrant in 1950s New York in *Brooklyn*, adapted from Colm Tóibín's bestselling novel. CONTRIBUTED

accounts in the Irish canon of immigration," explained director John Crowley. "If you got that specific story right, then you'd have the scale to carry hundreds, thousands and millions of stories with

it. It's sort of a keyhole drama in that way."

While that period of history remains scarce on testimony, Ronan insists she didn't necessarily rely on research to assume the character. Instead the

acting approach that garnered Ronan an Oscar nomination in 2008 for *Atonement* has "very much stayed based on instinct" — something that also informed her latest coming-of-age portrayal.

"As you get older and you have more life experience, that does come into play when you play a character," admitted Ronan. "This was less of a journey to step into that place because I was already there."

THREE THINGS

Ronan as chameleon

The first time I interviewed Saoirse Ronan she was 15 years old and the veteran of six movies. I had always admired her performances and as I walked into the interview suite I congratulated her on the film.

"Tanks pure much," she said with an Irish lilt that could charm the label off a bottle of Jameson Whiskey.

It was the first time I had heard her natural accent and confirmed what I already knew: that she was a chameleon with a propensity for accents that could give Meryl Streep a run for her money.

This weekend in Brooklyn she drops the drawls to play an Irish girl who immigrates to New York in the 1950s.

In what part of Ireland was she born? Despite her Irish accent, she was actually born in the Bronx in 1994.

"(My parents) went to New York in the '80s. There was a really bad recession in Ireland at the time. A lot of young people went to New York because that's our trek, that's our journey. The Irish always go to New York or somewhere on the East Coast."

Monica Ronan and Paul Ronan lived in New York for 11 years in total, moving back to County Carlow, Ireland when Saoirse was three years old.

Can she beat me up? Probably. To play teenage assassin Hanna she studied knife fighting, stick fighting, martial arts and learned how to shoot a gun. She performed most of her own stunts in the film and says if she was ever offered the action-star role of James Bond she would happily accept. "That tux? I could totally rock it." RICHARD CROUSE/METRO

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DRAMA/ACTION
The Hunger Games - Mockingjay 2
 Director: Francis Lawrence
 Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Julianne Moore

With the nation of Panem in a full-scale war, Katniss confronts President Snow in the final showdown. Teamed with a group of other fighters, Katniss goes off on a mission to liberate the citizens of Panem.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: Audience:
 72% 99%



MYSTERY/SUSPENSE
Secret in their Eyes
 Director: Billy Ray
 Starring: Chiwetel Ejiofor, Julia Roberts

A tight-knit team of rising FBI investigators — Ray and Jess, along with their District Attorney supervisor Claire — is suddenly torn apart when they discover that Jess's teenage daughter has been brutally and inexplicably murdered.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: Audience:
 35% 62%



COMEDY
The Night Before
 Director: Jonathan Levine
 Starring: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Seth Rogen

Ethan, Isaac, and Chris are friends. Their yearly Christmas Eve reunion has been an annual night of debauchery. But the tradition is coming to an end, and to make it memorable, they set out to find the Nutcracker Ball.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: Audience:
 66% 96%



DRAMA
Spotlight
 Director: Tom McCarthy
 Starring: Mark Ruffalo, Michael Keaton

This film tells the riveting true story of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Boston Globe investigation that would rock the city and cause a crisis in one of the world's oldest and most trusted institutions. This tense thriller traces the steps to one of the biggest cover-ups in modern times.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: Audience:
 96% 95%



COMEDY
Love the Coopers
 Director: Jesse Nelson
 Starring: Olivia Wilde, Amanda Seyfried

When four generations of the Cooper family come together for their annual Christmas Eve celebration, a series of unexpected visitors and unlikely events turn the night upside down, leading them all towards a surprising rediscovery of family bonds.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: Audience:
 20% 44%



DRAMA/ROMANCE
By the Sea
 Director: Angelina Jolie
 Starring: Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt

A married couple takes a vacation in France in the 1970s and finds that their time in a sleepy seaside town, complete with a unique array of locals, strengthens their bond and reaffirms their marriage.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: Audience:
 30% 61%

— THE HUFFINGTON POST Erin Whitney —

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Speaking up only start of recovery



Swift Current blends the stories of former NHL player Sheldon Kennedy and younger victims who came forward after one of Kennedy's public talks. It airs Saturday on Global at 9 p.m. ET/PT.

HANDOUT

DOCUMENTARY

Ex-NHL player still battles demons of sexual abuse

Liz Brown
Metro | Canada

It's been almost 20 years since former NHL player Sheldon Kennedy came forward with his story of sexual abuse at the hands of former Swift Current Broncos head coach Graham James.

In the years that followed, more victims shared their stories, James was jailed and Kennedy held up as a hero as he rollerbladed across Canada to raise money and awareness for sexual abuse victims.

Kennedy thought his disclosure would bring him peace, but the pain and trauma from those early years still haunted him as he battled alcoholism and cocaine addiction and had stints in jail.

At one point he found himself sitting with a gun, contemplating suicide.

"I think one of the biggest myths out there is once you tell your story, it's over," says Kennedy.

Swift Current, a new documentary about Kennedy and the struggles of sex abuse victims, aims to dispel that myth.

"This film paints a very visceral and cinematic portrait of how difficult it is to recover from sexual abuse trauma," says the doc's director Joshua

Rofé. At first, Rofé says that Kennedy was reticent to work with him on the film, as he felt his story had already been told and there was nothing more to say.

But as their focus sharpened, they realized the story wasn't just Kennedy's, but a broader look at the healing journey.

"I think that this doc is told in a way of how the issues have evolved," says Kennedy, comparing The Sheldon Kennedy Story — the documentary about his life made in the late '90s — to Swift Current.

"If we look at the film that was made 17 years ago, it was just telling a story that showed

this stuff happens, but I think we're at a point now where I believe (Swift Current) talks about solution. It's about hope," he says.

Threaded through Kennedy's own recovery are the stories of two 21-year-old victims who spoke up at one of Kennedy's public talks at Durham College in Oshawa, Ont.

In front of 300 people, they told their own stories of abuse and asked Kennedy for help.

"These kids were dying to speak up," says Rofé, who felt compelled to include them in the documentary.

Rofé shows Kennedy sharing his story and helping these young victims deal with the aftermath of their abuse.

"The great comparison that Josh has made in this film is between them — they're 21 — and me, who's been grinding away trying to get healthy for 20 years; the two different places of recovery," says Kennedy.

Today, Kennedy is clean and works to advocate for better child protection policies in Canada and the U.S. and is the lead director at the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre in Calgary.

But he admits his recovery still requires day-to-day work.

"It's about having tools," he says.

"For me, that's attending meetings and advocacy, working out, and heading out to my farm to ground myself."

"What I'm good at is pushing for change and listening to the grassroots and pushing at the top to make things happen," he says.



This film paints a very visceral and cinematic portrait of how difficult it is to recover from sexual abuse trauma.

Director Joshua Rofé



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Rocky returns for a new generation

CREED

How a director convinced Stallone to revisit franchise

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

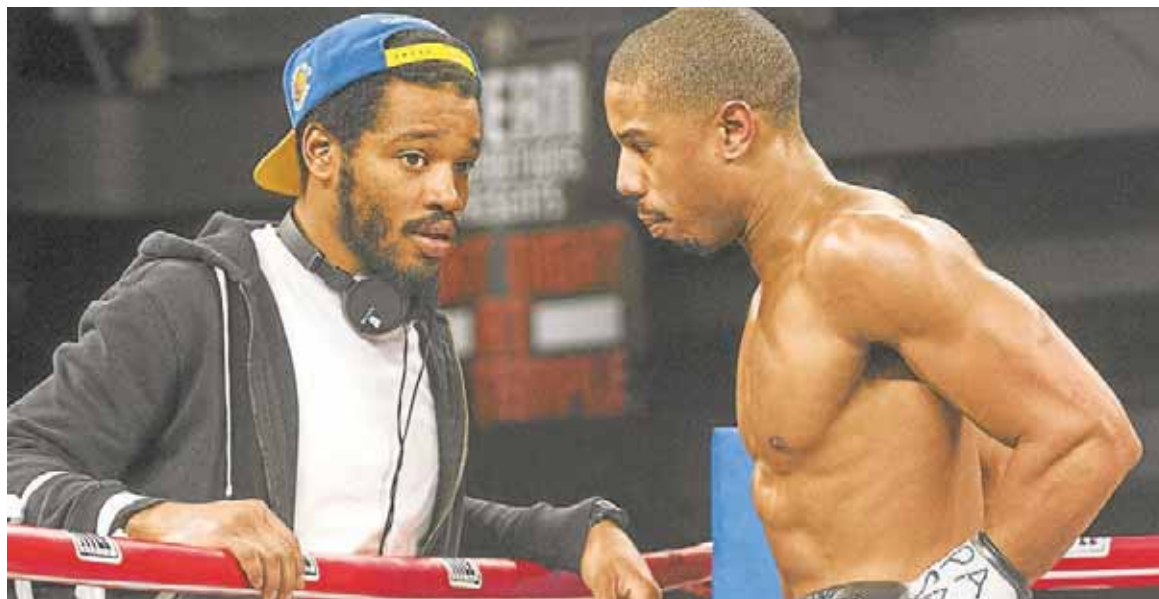


Like a lot of people director Ryan Coogler has a personal connection to the Rocky movies.

"Whenever I had a big test at school or a football game (my father would) say, 'Take 10 minutes and watch this scene from Rocky. That'll get you fired up. That'll give you the juice to score five touchdowns. Or get an A on that test.' I'd look over and think, 'Are we watching this for me or for you?'"

It's one thing to have the emotional connection; it's another to convince Sylvester Stallone to make a seventh Rocky movie.

"I think the most important thing was that this movie was following a different character's arc," said Coogler. "Rocky



Director Ryan Coogler, left, talks to Michael B. Jordan who stars as Adonis Creed in *Creed*, which opens next Wednesday. Jordan says he's always looked at himself as an underdog and had to defeat odds to get what he wanted. HANDOUT

is there in a role that's very important to the film but very much supports this other character's journey to find themselves. That was important because no matter how good the

idea was he wasn't going to make another Rocky movie."

The result is *Creed*, the evolution of a story that began in 1976, 10 years before Coogler was born. Michael B. Jordan is

Adonis Creed, the son of Apollo Creed, Rocky's old friend who died in the ring at the hands of Ivan Drago.

Born after his father's death, Adonis never knew his dad

but seems to have inherited the old man's love of boxing and much of his skill, but can Rocky whip him into shape for a title match? Cue the underdog theatrics and signature swelling

STAR NOTES

Michael B. Jordan's love affair with Rocky

"This project came up and I had the chance to fall in love with the Rocky franchise all over again."

trumpet score.

"*Creed* is about a sense of identity," said Coogler, "which is what I think the first Rocky was but the other themes are what make this fresh. What happens to someone dealing with an absentee father? What does love look like in the millennial generation when women are just as career oriented as men, or are expected to be? This idea of a generational handoff, baby boomers handing off responsibility and jobs to millennials; what does that look like?"

It looks like Rocky 1.0, a new story for a new generation. "I was always honest with (Stallone) and let him know what the movies meant to me. I think he has an understanding that the movies kind of belong to everybody at this point."

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Bridging 13 years in adaptation

INTERVIEW

Chiwetel Ejiofor talks making a film American

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood



For *The Secret in Their Eyes*, Chiwetel Ejiofor teams up with Nicole Kidman and Julia Roberts — and takes on a unique acting challenge: playing the same character during two distinct periods of his life 13 years apart.

And while a little gray in the temples helps, Ejiofor found some unique ways to distinguish the two versions of himself.

What was it about this character that interested you?

I liked the idea of dealing with this character in two different time periods, thereby being able to reflect and engage with the obsessional qualities that he has. I'm sure it's a part of his character anyway, but these circumstances that he's

in kind of highlight his propensity to become obsessed. It becomes a very interesting story about this guy's psychology, the demons at play within him. I was really excited about exploring all of those things.

That gap between the two periods is interesting. Did you do any work for yourself as far as what his life was like in between?

Yeah, I mean, building a sort of background for him and what his life was — his romantic life and his professional life — and just sort of filling in the gaps of that was really helpful. But the main event for him is that there's like a sound that he can't get rid of. I thought of it as almost literal, almost kind of something a ringing sound that he could never escape. He has the knowledge that the only way he'll ever get past or get through it is by finding the guy who did the thing. So the main thing for him in that time is that he cannot break free of this obsession, this need.

If you're imagining an actual ringing in your ears, does



Julia Roberts, Nicole Kidman and Chiwetel Ejiofor star in *Secret in Their Eyes*. HANDOUT

that drive you crazy by the end of the shoot?

(laughs) Yeah, I mean if it were to really manifest. But you know, yeah, it's obviously metaphorical but there's definitely a sense of that with him. And that's why I think when he starts to confront the guy, it just takes on its own quality.

Did you watch the original Argentinean film?

No, I didn't. I didn't see it beforehand. I've seen it since. I felt like it was going to be interesting to me to be able to take a look at it afterward. What I always suspected was that the films would be very different because an Amer-

ican version of an Argentinean film, I think, just sort of culturally comes from a different place and would therefore go down a totally different avenue. And I think that's true of the film, that they become kind of cousins in a way. They're not directly related. They follow some of the same

narrative principles, but the characters exist in totally different universes.

Can you pinpoint a cultural difference between an American and Argentinean version of a story?

In a sense, in the Argentinean version, there's something quite delicate and tender in the center of it that is slightly different from the Americanized version of the film, which is quite muscular, you know? And has a slightly different feel to it. It's quite different. I think both things work, but I don't think they could be overlapped. I don't think you could make an American version of the film that could sustain that kind of tenderness.

This seems like the kind of adult drama people lament that don't get made anymore.

That was one of the good things about doing this — it seemed like the kind of film that you don't really see that much of anymore, and I miss these kinds of movies. (laughs) I was really happy to be engaged in something like this.

1950S HOLLYWOOD

John Goodman on Trumbo

John Goodman teams up with Bryan Cranston and director Jay Roach for *Trumbo*, starring as Frank King, the inelegant B-movie mogul who kept Dalton Trumbo (Cranston) working after he was blacklisted from Hollywood in the 1950s. And Goodman doesn't think we've come that far since then.

How familiar were you with Dalton Trumbo's story?

When I became interested in acting, I was drawn to the people from the Group Theater in New York, and a lot of them went on to become very famous acting teachers but then a lot of them also joined the Communist party. So I knew about blacklisting from what had happened to them, and I knew about the Hollywood 10 — not in a lot of great detail. I'd admired Dalton Trumbo but, my God, I had no idea he was as prolific as he was.

How about your character, Frank King? Were you familiar with him and his brother?

No, I didn't know a thing about them. I found out what I could find out on the Internet. You know, these guys were the same kind of people that founded the motion pic-



In *Trumbo*, John Goodman plays movie mogul Frank King who keeps a blacklisted screenwriter working in 1950s Hollywood.

HILARY BRONWYN
GAYLE/BLECKER
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ASSOCIATED PRESS

ture studios in the first place. They were involved in the pinball business, saw a way to make a quick buck. They were just there to make money and nothing else.

It almost seems strange now how much people freaked out over Communism.

It doesn't seem strange to me at all, and it doesn't seem like we've learned our lessons very well. People are very good at manipulating fear for their own ends and for power. We have a lot of lobbyists doing it, we have a lot of politicians who are buying into it. And these days of social media, it's becoming tribal, almost — the group-shaming of people, beating up on people. It's very good at turning individuals into mobs — "this is what's

right to think, this is what's correct." And people aren't afraid to use death threats now and really, really hateful speech. Doesn't seem like we've learned a lot.

It's scary how with social media you can create your own echo chamber.

Yeah, you listen to the groups that you want to listen to, and you don't listen to anybody else. That's as far as I want to get down that, start to get into privacy and all that stuff, which has no bearing here. Well ... it does because it's the privacy of a person to have their own beliefs and wishes and not have to share them with anyone else or really have to explain them if they're perfectly legal to have.

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Sarah Silverman's New York

DAY IN THE LIFE

Comedian talks her favourite hangouts and pastimes

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

Sarah Silverman may have grown up in New Hampshire, but the popular comedian certainly relates more to New York — in particular Lower Manhattan, where she blossomed as an edgy standup comic. While her upcoming, critically acclaimed drama *I Smile Back* and a new HBO comedy special (premiering Nov. 23) have kept her busy lately, Silverman always gets back to the city that makes her “heart just swell.” We caught up to uncover her ideal day in *The Big Apple*.

Brunch at the deli

Begin your day with a late-morning brunch at B&H Dairy (facebook.com/BHDairy-KosherRestaurant) — an East Village staple for more than seven decades. “It’s a tiny hole-in-the-wall,” laughs Silverman, of her go-to daytime diner.



Washington Square Park in Greenwich Village is the ideal spot for people-watching. iStock

The Comedy Cellar is like my home, I love it.

“They have the best soup, the best challah bread and it’s a kosher deli. I have no religion at all, but I am a vegetarian so it’s the only matzo ball soup I can eat because it’s not made with chicken fat.”

Walk in the park

“My favourite thing to do

in the world is just walking the streets of New York,” admits Silverman. But nowhere is patrolling the pavement better-suited than nearby Washington Square Park in Greenwich Village (washingtontownsquareparkconservancy.org).

Notably renowned for the

iconic 123-year-old Washington Square Arch, this gorgeous urban garden plays host to everyone from students to street performers to chess enthusiasts, making the historical square once known for public executions now the ideal spot for people-watching.

Dinner with Frank

A mere 12-minute stroll back into the East Village will land you at Silverman’s favourite supper stop. A small, uncompromising eatery, Frank (frankrestaurant.com) boasts an astonishing wine list and serves up authentic Italian entrees like Rigatoni al Ragù for a reasonable price.

“It’s loud, it’s small, you can’t have any adjustments on your order (and) it’s cash only — it’s one of those places,” says Silverman. “But it is the best Italian food in New York City.”

Laugh the night away

Make your way back to Greenwich Village to finish your evening rolling in the cramped aisles of Silverman’s favourite comedy club.

“The Comedy Cellar (comedycellar.com) is like my home, I love it,” explained Silverman of the legendary basement bar where one can often catch surprise sets by the likes of Chris Rock or Louis CK.

Afterwards, Silverman suggests winding down around the corner at their sister club *The Village Underground*. After all, “that’s where all the comics hang out.”

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5 GIFT SUGGESTIONS FOR THOSE ON THE GO

Wondering what to get the traveller on your holiday list? Here are a few ideas:

1 Multi-tool wonder

Move over, Swiss Army knife — there is a new multi-tool available this season and you can wear it on your wrist. Worn as a bracelet, the Leatherman Tread is 25 tools in one; each link of this bracelet is a stainless steel implement, from various-sized screwdrivers to a bottle opener to a pick/SIM card tool. It is designed to be customizable with slotted fasteners so you can rearrange links, add new ones, and adjust to your wrist size. Available for \$155 at Mountain Equipment Co-op or online at mec.ca.



2 Haulin' it

If your special someone needs new luggage, Bentley's black and red Air Canada Quest Hardside Spinner conforms to Air Canada flight regulations. Each component of the three-piece luggage set is designed with four spinner wheels, two zippered compartments, tie-down straps and a telescopic handle. The pieces are sold separately; the carry-on retails for \$109.99 CAD, the 24" for \$119 and the 28" for \$139. If you purchase online at shop-bentley.com the shipping is free.



3 No ordinary towel

Discovery Trekking's ultra fast-dry towels have silver anti-microbial technology, which makes them odour-resistant. They fold up compactly to slip into a suitcase or carry-on bag and are multifunctional; they can also be used as a sarong, a scarf and a travel blanket for the car or plane. See discoverytrekking.com.



4 Memories

With a Travelzoo.ca gift certificate you are not only giving some unique travel experiences, but you are saving money. A stay at the Auberge Saint-Antoine in Quebec City, voted one of the best hotels in the world by Travel + Leisure Magazine, is \$179 (a savings of 35 per cent), dinner for two at Bauhaus in Vancouver, featuring a tasting menu by a Michelin-starred chef will set you back \$120 (a savings of 45 per cent) and a Niagara-on-the-Lake Culinary Walking Tour for two is only \$55 (a savings of 44 per cent). **LOREN CHRISTIE/FOR METRO**



5 A good flight's rest

Looking for a cheap and cheerful stocking stuffer? Colourful and practical, an Austin House memory foam neck pillow is perfect for sleeping on an airplane. The fleece is removable and washable. Pick one up at Staples or your local CAA office.



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Unusual places to spend the night

EUROPE

Wake up in a cockpit or a Snowcastle

To escape the gray and gloomy atmosphere of fall, what could be better than an extended weekend stay in an unusual and quirky location? The HomeToGo vacation

rental website has identified a number of surprising accommodation offers all over Europe that are worth the trip. Read on for a few of AFP's top picks:



STOCKHOLM

An air pilot's cabin

In the Swedish capital, a passenger airplane has been chartered to accommodate tourists in search of a unique nighttime spot. The cockpit has been transformed into a two-person bedroom suite with free Wi-Fi and private bathroom. The experience goes for 382 euros (\$545 CDN) per night. For those with tighter budgets, a number of other rooms are available throughout the plane at a lower price range.



PARIS

A cupcake shop

In Paris's iconic Montmartre district, a tourist hot spot, the owner of a cupcake boutique rents out her establishment for overnight stays. Lucky guests will stay in a charmingly British setting and will be offered some of the owner's pastry creations during their stay. The 25-square-metre space goes for 130 euros (\$185 CDN) per night.



LAPLAND, FINLAND

An ice castle

Every winter, the "Snowcastle" is rebuilt to welcome visitors that dream of spending a decidedly unique evening. The room is made of ice and can accommodate up to five people. Single rooms and suites are also available and sleeping bags are supplied with each bed. Prices start at 118 euros (\$168 CDN) per night.



AMSTERDAM

A sailboat

Anchored on one of Amsterdam's many canals, visitors can rent out this entire sailboat. It includes 11 bedrooms, four bathrooms and can accommodate up to 30 guests. Travellers will have the privilege of visiting the Dutch capital from the water thanks to a tour of the canals. The sailboat contains a common room equipped with a television, a stereo system and a draft beer machine. Prices start at 731 (\$1,043 CDN) euros. AFP

Easy to find your groove in Memphis

TENNESSEE

Enjoy its rich history, its love of music, and plenty of beer

This city loves its music. It protects its history. And it's really starting to like its beer.

Travellers to Memphis need to know the basics of this Tennessee city nestled along the Mississippi River. It is a capital of blues, rock and roll and soul music, a gritty city where influential musicians like B.B. King, Elvis Presley and Otis Redding lived and worked.

It is a city rich in history, where cotton trading was once the main economic engine, where Confederate and Union gunboats battled on the river during the Civil War, where Martin Luther King Jr. came to support striking city sanitation workers and was assassinated.

And, it's a city that likes to have fun, whether it's on world-famous Beale Street or in the breweries that have started making craft beers in recent years.

Here are some essentials for visiting Memphis:

What's new

It took 34 years, but the Blues Hall of Fame finally opened in May on South Main Street, a neighbourhood undergoing significant revitalization.

Founded in 1980, the non-profit Blues Foundation has inducted about 130 performers and dozens of others into the Hall of Fame, but only now does it have a brick-and-mortar location for where music-lovers can see memorabilia attached to their favourite blues musicians, from B.B. King to Robert Johnson to Pinetop Perkins.

The building sits across the street from the National Civil Rights Museum and near art galleries, restaurants and bars just south of the downtown area. Artifacts include clothing, paintings, bronze busts, records and magazines tied to the world's most influential blues masters.

CRAFT BREWERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A beer-brewing revolution has hit Memphis in recent years. At Memphis Made brewery, long tables give it the feel of a German beer garden, and Wiseacre has an outdoors area for chilling out.

There's also an interactive database.

Classic attractions

One of America's most popular attractions sits in Memphis: Graceland, the home-turned-museum celebrating all things

Elvis. The house is open for tours, and the attraction across the street features Elvis-related exhibits, including a neat one displaying vehicles owned and used by Elvis, from a Ferrari to a Harley-Davidson. A new 450-room hotel, Guest House at Graceland, is under construction, scheduled to open October 2016.

Other classic music spots include Sun Studio, where Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, Johnny Cash and Charlie Rich recorded music; and Stax Records, where Redding, Sam & Dave, the Staple Singers, Isaac

Hayes and others cut songs in the raw, soulful "Memphis sound."

A walk down Beale Street reveals well-worn, but fun, live music venues in Rum Boogie Cafe and W.C. Handy's Blues Hall. There are plenty of shops to get that shot glass or T-shirt for a friend or relative. A visit to Blues City Cafe will not disappoint, as it serves four of Memphis's main food groups: barbecue ribs, fried catfish, hot tamales and Jack Daniel's.

The National Civil Rights Museum tells the story of the history of the civil rights movement, and its important moments and figures. Built on the location of the old Lorraine Motel — where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in April 1968 — it features a view of the room where King stayed at the hotel.

Finally, a visit to the Memphis Zoo, ranked as one of the nation's best zoos annually, is a must-do. Giant pandas, hungry hippos and playful penguins are among the living attractions. During the winter holidays, the zoo has a Christmas lights display and ice skating.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A memorial outside the club of B.B. King on Beale Street in May, following the blues legend's death. Beale Street is home to various live music venues and shops. KAREN PULFER FOCHT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2015 Winners

Holly Alick, River Hebert District High

Kelly Barteaux, Auburn Drive High

Cindie Collette Conrad, École Bois Joli

Janice Gavin, APSEA – Halifax

Maria Gorman, Carleton Consolidated

Muriel Hill-Latimer, Riverview High

Stephanie Hunt, Bluenose Academy

Dana Jewers, Fanning Education Centre

Jo Anne MacDonald, NSCC – Strait Area Campus

James Wiseman, West Kings District High

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Teachers Make a Difference

nstu.ca



SPONSORED CONTENT

Talk about teachers

When children are given a voice they always have a lot to say.

That's why the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) asked students to talk about teachers who make a difference in their lives.

"My teacher encourages me to seek my dreams," said one girl. "Teachers help me see others' point of view," said another student.

The NSTU asks students to nominate teachers in the annual Teachers Make a Difference program. This year, 10 teachers were randomly selected from a pool of 227 nominees.

"It's wonderful to see more and more teachers recognized each year by parents and students," says NSTU president Shelley Morse. "Our members continue to make a difference for students, their families and their communities. The 10 chosen teachers are representative of all our members."

Students had a lot to say about their teachers and how they make a difference. Some of the comments were teachers are supportive, kind, dedicated, caring, patient, and make learning meaningful and fun.

Recently the NSTU produced aired a series



Students from Eric Graves Memorial Junior High who participated in the campaign. CONTRIBUTED

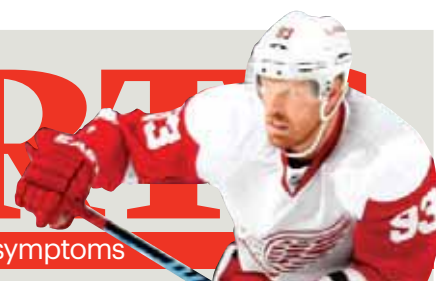
ies of 15-second spots on TV featuring local students talking about their teachers. These spots are now on the NSTU's web site and on YouTube: youtube.com/nstuwebcast.

"My teacher inspires me to think outside the box," said one of the students in the testimonial. "My teacher helped me love gym," was another.

The overwhelming response to the Teachers Make a Difference campaign shows that when children are given the opportunity to speak, they'll take it.



Content Solutions



Halifax native McDonald backstops Q over Russia

JUNIOR HOCKEY

Quebec league bounces back after losing on Tuesday



Kristen Lipscombe
Metro | Halifax

Goaltender Mason McDonald called Thursday night's Team QMJHL win "a pride game."

The Quebec Major Hockey League's top players defeated Russia 6-4 on Thursday night, in the sixth and final game of the CHL Canada Russia Series in front of 7,034 local fans at the Scotiabank Centre.

"We wanted to win," the 19-year-old Halifax native said after making 27 saves in front of his hometown crowd.

"We wanted to show the Russians that the Q is a good league, and we did a great job," said McDonald. The six-foot-four, 201-pounder, who mans the posts for the Q-league's Charlottetown Islanders, was picked 34th overall by the Calgary Flames in the 2014 NHL Entry Draft.

It was Team QMJHL's second game against Russia's top young players, the first resulting in a 3-2 loss Tuesday night in Rouyn-Noranda, Que.

But in the end, the three



Halifax native Mason McDonald made 27 saves to help lead Team QMJHL to a 6-4 win over Russia in Game 6 of the 2015 CHL Canada Russia Series on Thursday night at the Scotiabank Centre. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Canadian Hockey League teams claimed the 2015 edition of the series 5-1, with Team WHL winning 7-3 on Nov. 9 and 4-3 on Nov. 10, and Team OHL shutting out the Russians 3-2 on Nov. 12 and edging them 2-1 on Nov. 16.

With Hockey Canada scouts watching from the stands, in addition to family and friends from across Nova Scotia, McDonald said he had some

nerves before stepping into the crease for Thursday's game, but added that's par for the course for him.

"I'm kind of nervous for every game, honestly," he said. "But once I make that first save, it all just goes away and I settle in pretty well."

McDonald made several key saves for the win, which included stopping a breakaway shot from Danill Vovenchko

in the third.

Mathieu Joseph of the Saint John Sea Dogs was named player of the game for Team QMJHL, scoring in the first and third. Jeremy Lauzon, Nicolas Aube-Jubel and Anthony Beauvillier scored in the opening frame, giving the Q-team a 4-0 lead early in the game, while Nicolas Meloche also notched one in the third.

Halifax Mooseheads forward

Maxime Fortier assisted Joseph's first goal of the game.

Russia's mid-game comeback included two goals from Evgeny Svechnikov, Russia's player of the game, as well as Artur Lauta and Kirill Pili-penko.

"Some people say, from out west and Ontario, the Q is the weaker league," McDonald said. "You want to represent the Q league (well); it's about pride."

HOCKEY

Huskies hope to keep winning streak alive

The Saint Mary's Huskies hope to heat up the ice again this weekend in women's hockey action.

The Huskies look to extend their seven-game winning streak when they host the Moncton Aigles Bleues at 2 p.m. on Saturday and the St. Thomas Tommies at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Saint Mary's is currently atop Atlantic University Sport standings in first, while St. Thomas is in second and Moncton claims third place.

The fifth-place Dalhousie Tigers are also on a winning streak, but may be in tough to make it four straight when they welcome the Aigles Bleues at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday.

On the men's side, the fifth-place Saint Mary's Huskies are on the road this weekend for games against the St. Thomas Tommies on Friday and Moncton Aigles Bleus on Saturday, while the seventh-place Dalhousie Tigers host the UPEI Panthers on Friday and the UNB Varsity Red on Saturday. The puck drop is 7 p.m. for all four men's games. METRO

6 AUS men's players to make CIS all-star squad

Six of Atlantic University Sport's top men's hockey players will have the chance to face off against Canada's national junior team prospects for two exhibition games next month.

Hockey Canada and Canadian Interuniversity Sport announced this week that they'll jointly host a two-game series between the national juniors and CIS all-stars Dec. 12 and Dec. 13 in Toronto.

The series will help the juniors prepare for the world junior championship, taking place Dec. 26-Jan. 5 in Finland.

The 23-player CIS roster will also include 11 athletes from Ontario University Athletics and six more from Canada West, with both coaches and players to be announced at the end of this month.

The national junior team will be announced Dec. 20, following selection camp in Toronto. METRO

MLB

Jays' Donaldson walks off with AL MVP honour

Toronto Blue Jays third baseman Josh Donaldson has been named the American League MVP.

Donaldson hit .297 with a league-best 123 runs batted in to help the Blue Jays to their first AL East title — and first playoff appearance — since 1993.

The 29-year-old beat Los Angeles Angels outfielder Mike Trout for the honours and joined 1987 winner George Bell as the only Blue Jays players to be named AL MVP.

What was characterized as a close race leading up to Thursday's announcement turned

RECOGNITION

Earlier this month, Donaldson was named a Silver Slugger award winner for the first time in his career.

out to be an easy win for Donaldson, who took 23 first-place votes and seven second-place votes.

Trout had seven first-place and 22 second-place votes, as well as one third-place vote.

"I have a lot of respect for

Mike Trout and what he's able to do out there on a day-to-day basis," Donaldson said.

"You know going into the season if you're going to ultimately win an MVP award you're going to have to put up better numbers than Mike."

Washington Nationals outfielder Bryce Harper was a unanimous choice as National League MVP. Harper, 23, became the youngest unanimous MVP winner in baseball history. He got all 30 first-place votes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS, WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Josh Donaldson took 23 of the 30 first-place ballots in voting for the AL MVP. PAUL SANCYA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

T-Birds hope turnaround lands them in Vanier Cup

UTECK BOWL

No. 7-ranked UBC takes on St. FX in national semi

The rapid rise of the UBC Thunderbirds has even Blake Nill struggling for an explanation.

When the no-nonsense head coach took over the University of British Columbia's football program last December — a team coming off a 2-6 campaign and without a winning record since 2004 — he was prepared for a painful rebuild.

Fast-forward just 11 months and, much to Nill's surprise, the Thunderbirds are within a game of the Vanier Cup.

7

Nill has been to a combined seven Vanier Cups with Saint Mary's and Calgary, winning in 2001 and 2002 with the Huskies.

"It's been a season that defies logic, to be honest with you," he said this week. "The kids have done a good job dealing with the transition and have an understanding of what's expected. We're starting to play some pretty good football."

Good football is right. The Thunderbirds (8-2) have won six straight heading into Saturday's Uteck Bowl against the St. Francis Xavier X-Men in Antigonish, including last weekend's 34-26 upset victory on the road over the No. 1-ranked, and

previously undefeated, Calgary Dinos in the Hardy Cup.

Nill, who joined UBC after eight seasons with the Dinos, set expectations low at his introductory press conference, but what has happened with the Thunderbirds follows a pattern. The Hanna, Alta., native won conference titles with the Saint Mary's Huskies and at Calgary in his second season, and is known as a master recruiter.

MITCHELL BOWL

The University of Montreal Carabins will take on the Guelph Gryphons in the other national semifinal.

His prize target to get things off the ground at UBC was quarterback Michael O'Connor, a 19-year-old from Ottawa who

transferred from Penn State.

"He's the real deal," said Nill. "When it's on the line he knows what he has to do. He makes some incredible plays."

While the No. 6 Thunderbirds are coming off a lightning-quick turnaround, the unranked X-Men have steadily improved over the last five seasons under head coach Gary Waterman.

St. FX (7-3) found itself down late in the Loney Bowl on the

road against the Mount Allison Mounties, but got a late field goal into the wind that bounced off the crossbar and over for a stunning 14-12 victory.

"One more rotation was what we needed," said Waterman, in his seventh year leading the X-Men. "I don't know how many times I've seen a ball hit a goal post and be no good. It was an incredible feeling."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Blake Nill has led the Thunderbirds to an 8-2 record in his first season as the team's head coach. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

NFL IN BRIEF

Hardy needs to take domestic violence seriously, Rice says

Ray Rice says he would encourage Greg Hardy to examine the "severity of domestic violence."

Rice told a radio show Thursday morning that Hardy has to be "sincere" in his actions on and off the field. "You don't have to win another football game, you don't need another dollar to go out and make a difference in other peoples' lives," Rice said.

Hardy got a second chance with the Dallas Cowboys after missing 14 games last season while with Carolina due to a domestic case. He served a four-game suspension from the NFL to begin this year after his 10-game suspension was reduced.

Rice was suspended indefinitely by the NFL and released by the Ravens last year when a video surfaced of him punching his then-fiancée in an elevator.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raiders linebacker's actions toward police dog deemed not malicious

Pennsylvania authorities say Oakland Raiders linebacker Ray-Ray Armstrong did not act maliciously when he confronted a police dog just before the start of a Nov. 8 game in Pittsburgh against the Steelers.

Investigators had been trying to determine whether the player's conduct constituted taunting of a police dog, a third-degree felony.

The sheriff's office has said the player lifted his shirt, beat his chest and barked at the explosive-detection dog before telling a deputy to release the animal, which she did not.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LPGA

Kim closing in on \$1M bonus at finale

Austin Ernst leads the tournament, Sei Young Kim leads the race for \$1 million and Lydia Ko has edged closer to everything else that's at stake this weekend.

So as expected, the LPGA's finale for 2015 is off to a hectic start.

Ernst shot a 6-under 66 Thursday to take a one-shot lead over South Korea's Mi Hyang Lee after the opening round of the CME Group Tour Championship. Kim, part of



Lydia Ko
GETTY IMAGES

a group two shots off Ernst's pace, would win the season-ending \$1-million bonus if the tournament ended in its current order. Ko shot a 69 to move closer to earning player of the year honours, plus the scoring and money titles.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Gronk unwavering with his style of play

Don't expect a few yellow flags to change the way New England's Rob Gronkowski plays football.

Despite compiling a team-high seven penalties this season, the Patriots' tight end balked at the suggestion of altering his game to accommodate the officials.

"I ain't doing anything wrong," Gronkowski said Thursday. "I'm playing football. I ain't changing my style."

Gronkowski has been flagged for offensive pass interference a league-leading four times

through nine games, accounting for 39 yards, according to NFLPenalties.com. No other player has been penalized more than twice for the infraction.

"I'm not sure what it is," Gronkowski said. "I'm just going to keep playing how I've been playing, how I go out in practice and try and transition it to the games."

Gronkowski isn't the lone culprit in his locker-room. New England leads the league with eight offensive pass interference penalties. The next closest teams are the Atlanta Falcons and Washington Redskins, who each have four. Nonetheless, the penalties haven't stopped the Patriots from scoring at will.

New England leads the league

with 303 points, an average of 33.7 per game, and ranks second only to the Arizona Cardinals in total offence yardage per game (418.7). As for Gronkowski, he has 49 receptions for 806 yards and eight touchdowns.

"We're playing well as an offence," Gronkowski said. "It's not that frustrating when I get the penalty and someone else makes the play on third-and-long. That definitely helps out right there. Just got to keep playing the game."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Rob Gronkowski
GETTY IMAGES FILE

GSP knows Rousey's pain

UFC

Former champ had to get over his 'nightmare' upset to Serra

Georges St-Pierre feels (Rowdy) Ronda Rousey's pain like perhaps no other. Eight years before Rousey was dethroned by Holly Holm at UFC 193, St-Pierre lost his welterweight crown to Matt (The Terror) Serra at UFC 69 in a shocking upset of his own.

A happy-go-lucky sort, Serra (8-4) had to win a season of The Ultimate Fighter reality TV show devoted to veterans making a comeback just to earn a title shot. St-Pierre, then 13-1 as a pro, was a 10-1 favourite to dispatch Serra.

The younger Montreal MMA star had just avenged a 2004 loss to Matt Hughes, widely viewed as the greatest welterweight champion ever, to claim the 170-pound crown at UFC 65 in November 2006. Serra needed just three minutes 25 seconds in April 2007 to dethrone St-Pierre in his first title defence. "This is my worst nightmare," St-Pierre said that night in Houston.

The previously unbeaten

Rousey, who went into last week-end's fight as MMA's reigning rock star, is living her own nightmare now — a 20-1 favourite left unconscious and bleeding.

"It's unfortunate for Ronda but I'm happy for Holly at the same time," St-Pierre, who like Holm had coach Greg Jackson in his corner, said in an interview Thursday.

"In this game, no one's invincible," he added. "Sometimes you zig when you should zag." St-Pierre lost his confidence along with his championship belt, but eventually remade both his game and the people around him.

"So in a way for Ronda it's sad that she lost, but maybe it could be the best thing that ever happened to her, in that she will come back much stronger."

St-Pierre did. He won 12 fights

in a row after losing his title, thumping Serra at UFC 83 in April 2008 to regain his crown.

He stepped away from the sport in late 2013 and, now 34, says he has yet to decide whether

he will come back. While both St-Pierre and Rousey fell victim to upsets, their cases are different.

The Canadian was a newly crowned champion. Rousey had made five successful title defences and had been demolishing all comers.

While Rousey looked in trouble from the get-go against Holm's striking, St-Pierre had been doing well against Serra until the unthinkable happened. After

Serra caught him on the back of his head, St-Pierre lost his equilibrium and fell backwards.

The end quickly followed. The defeat rocked St-Pierre, who said



In a way for Ronda it's sad that she lost, but maybe it could be the best thing that ever happened to her, in that she will come back much stronger.

George St. Pierre



Holly Holm, left, lands a punch on Ronda Rousey during their title fight in Melbourne, Australia. Holm pulled off a stunning upset win with a 2nd round KO. ANDY BROWNBILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

he used to feel no fear preparing for fights. "The fact that I lost made me realize that I was a human being," he said.

On the advice of sports psychologist Brian Cain, St-Pierre looked to rid himself of the men-

tal albatross of his title defeat by scrawling Serra's name onto a brick and hurling it into the icy waters off the South Shore. "Actually I thought it was kind of weird but I felt better after," St-Pierre said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TENNIS

Federer defeats dogged Nishikori

Roger Federer made sure Kei Nishikori's ATP finals ended early. Federer made up for his own mistakes in a see-saw match to earn his third straight victory at the season-ending tournament on Thursday, beating Nishikori 7-5, 4-6, 6-4 to secure top spot in his group, progress to the last four and eliminate the Japanese player.

Federer broke for a 3-1 lead in all three sets, but Nishikori came back each time, taking advantage of some rare mis-hits by the Swiss star along the way.

But Nishikori finally ran out of comebacks as Federer earned his sixth break of the match in the last game, clinching the win with a smash at London's O2 Arena.

Federer finished the group stage 3-0 while Nishikori was eliminated with a 1-2 record. Top-ranked Novak Djokovic joined Federer in the semifinals with a 6-3 7-5 victory over Tomas Berdych. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PHOTO: MAMA VISHNEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

You made it to Friday! And you totally deserve this amped up grilled cheese with salty ham and sweet apple.

Ready in

Prep time: 10 minutes

Serves 2

Ingredients

- 4 pieces whole grain bread
- 2 Tbsp butter, softened
- 4 slices ham
- 1 cup cheddar, grated
- 1/2 Granny Smith apple, thinly sliced
- 1 Tbsp mayonnaise
- 1 Tbsp yogurt
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard

Directions

1. Mix the mayo, yogurt and mustard in a small bowl.
2. Warm up a large skillet to

medium heat. Butter one side of two pieces of bread and place them bread butter side down in the pan. Spread the mayo mix evenly across the upward facing slices while they're in the pan.

3. Divide the grated cheese in half and sprinkle it over the bread. Now lay two slices of ham onto each piece of bread. Now add a layer of apple slices. Top with the other pieces of buttered bread, butter side out.

4. Place a small frying pan or plate over the sandwiches and then top it with something heavy, like a can of tomatoes. Check to see if it's ready to flip after the first piece of bread has been in the pan for about five minutes. When it looks crisp and golden, flip over and repeat the pressing action. Cook on the other side about another five minutes, but keep an eye on it. Remove sandwiches from the pan, slice in half and serve.

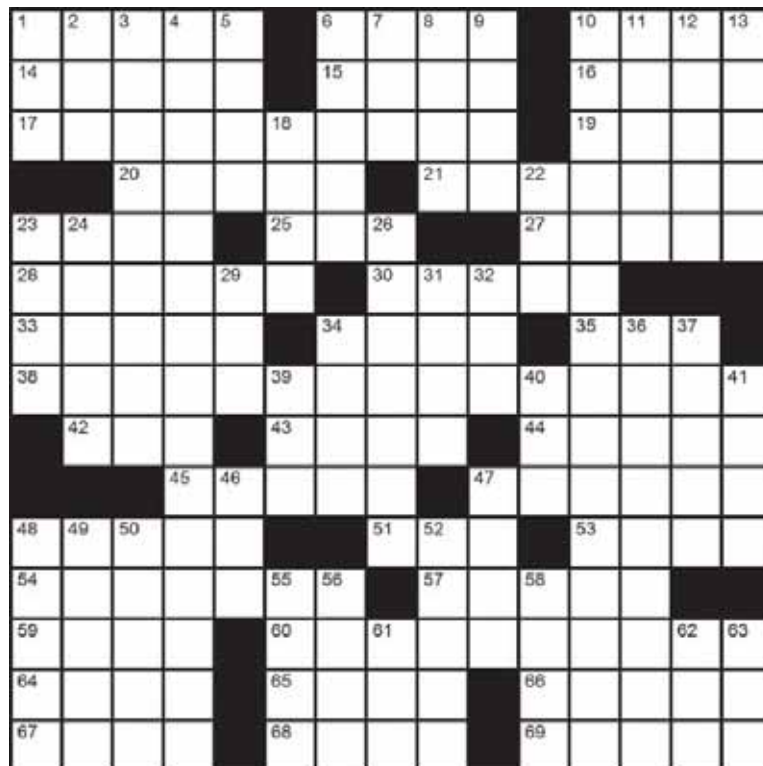
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30. Wire
33. "Family Ties" mother
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35. Calif. NBA team
38. Traditional handcrafted blankets: 2 wds.
42. Sun. church delivery
43. Amazes
44. Piece of land
45. Greek mythology shield
47. Band-Aid injury
48. Mine entrances
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53. "The Lion King"



- (1994) lioness
54. Canadian city with the slogan 'Our Tide Is Rising'
57. ___ examination
59. Sacred symbol of ancient Egypt
60. Persuasive market spiel: 2 wds.
64. Lacquered metalware

65. "Lean ___" by Bill Withers
66. "Be ___ and get..." (Sugary request starter)
67. Angry snits
68. Without
69. Flavour-adders to dishes

DOWN

1. Shear
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3. Montreal... Louis-___ Lafontaine Bridge-Tunnel (St. Lawrence River crossing)
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5. Garden invader
6. American flag

- seamstress, ___ Ross (b.1752 - d.1836)
7. ___ Dhabi
8. Songwriter Ms. DioGuardi
9. Optometrist's study
10. Toronto-born actor whose credits include "Total Recall" (1990), "The Perfect Storm"

- (2000) and Canadian outlaw biker gang miniseries "The Last Chapter": 2 wds.
11. Slice ___ (Carnivore's sandwich ingredient)
12. Sedimentary rock
13. Cobblestones
18. Casa ___ (Toronto attraction)
22. Chum
23. Footprint
24. Caffeine nuts
26. Rachel McAdams' profession
29. Repeated word in "She Loves You" by The Beatles
31. Questions
32. Lettered sauce
34. "___ get it!" (Aha! moment)
36. Carving material
37. Mil. rank: 2 wds.
39. "___ the Dog" (1997)
40. ___ Aztec languages
41. Plato's promenade
46. Cornerstone abbr.
47. Taverns
48. Family of Italian violin makers
49. Blood giver
50. Linen tape for trimmings
52. Slurpee-like frozen beverages
55. Bears: Spanish
56. Cute-style grandmother
58. Colourful fish
61. Alphabetic trio
62. Taxi
63. Timecard abbrs.

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Know when to push for what you want but also when to back off. With both the Sun and Mercury moving into one of the best areas of your chart it won't take much to get the good things in life.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
It will be easy to get impatient today but with Mercury's entry into the area of your chart that governs joint financial matters you'll need all your energy for more important issues.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Work hard but once you reach your targets reward yourself with plenty of rest and relaxation. Also, don't be too eager to confide your fears to people you don't know if you can trust.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Bring what you've been working on to a conclusion and you will have accomplished something truly worthwhile. The Sun in Scorpio unleashed the creative side of your nature — now enjoy the rewards.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You will have to deal with a rather emotional situation today, one that threatens to bring grievances to the surface. You must face your inner demons as well as external enemies.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will be remarkably persuasive today: your way with words will win over everyone. You will also have to deal with situations that call for a more hands-on approach.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Money doesn't have to be the center of your universe but you do need to make sure you get what you deserve. You've worked long and hard — don't let others take the benefits from you.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Do something dramatic before the Sun moves out of your birth sign on Sunday. Any doubts you've had must be swept away. If it feels right to you then it does not matter what the rest of the world thinks about it.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There is something you need to clear up before the Sun moves into your sign at the weekend. This is the one and only chance you will get, so don't waste it.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may be wondering why everyone is being so nice but don't let your doubts hold you back. You are liked and everyone wants to help.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may be a recluse but you need to get engaged with the world. If you approach someone in a position of power with a request there is every chance it will be granted, so what are you waiting for?

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Your confidence has been sky-high and you certainly won't be afraid to take chances. That the possibility of failure never enters your mind means that success is more likely — maybe even guaranteed.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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